

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON
URBAN DISTRICT.

Annual Report

For 1914,

OF THE

VITAL STATISTICS,

Sanitary Work, &c.,

BY

CLARENCE BEESLEY,

D.P.H. CAMB., &c.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON:

FREDK. W. DALGLEISH, PRINTER, THE LIBRARY.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1914.

“REDVERS,” EXMOUTH,

February 11th, 1915.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the Budleigh Salterton District for the year 1914. The headings of the subjects are arranged similarly to previous Reports, thus following the scheme laid down by the Local Government Board and contained in their Memorandum to Medical Officers of Health (1912). This arrangement facilitates reference and comparison. As Budleigh Salterton is a very small District, it is impossible to deal with some of the sections.

The usual tables of statistical information will be found at the end of the Report, and every endeavour has been made to ensure their accuracy. There are no Factories, and only a few Workshops and Workplaces in the District, and the work done in connection with them is also tabulated.

A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Budleigh Salterton occupies a sheltered position between Sidmouth and Exmouth, and is built on the sides and bottom of a valley running south-south-east downwards to the sea. A natural aid to efficient drainage is thereby provided. The soil is gravel over red sandstone, and the surface rapidly dries after rain. Fog is rare, and when it does occur, is only from the sea. Fishing and the building trade are the main sources of employment for the working classes.

Budleigh Salterton holds out many inducements to those contemplating retirement, including, as it does, a good Club, and

opportunities for hunting, fishing, tennis and golf. The surrounding country is pretty, and delightful walks and drives abound. During the season excursions by motor and steamboat are provided, enabling places so far apart as Weymouth and Plymouth to be visited.

B.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

(1)—WATER SUPPLY.—The elaborate scheme prepared and carried out on the recommendation of Messrs. Strachan & Weeks, for the better supply and distribution of water to the District, has acted admirably since its inception. The problem of supplying some of the high-level houses with water during a dry period was getting increasingly difficult, owing to the low level of the existing reservoir and the height above it at which new buildings were being erected. The pumping plant was also inadequate. All these difficulties have now been overcome, and the new service reservoir at West Down Beacon will ensure sufficient pressure to supply any houses likely to be built for many years.

The District is supplied with water from two sources, Kersbrook and Sherbrook, and the Public Analyst's Report on these waters is appended.

SHERBROOK.

This sample presents little difference in general features from what has been found in former analyses.

As regards the quality dependent on circumstances affecting the gathering area the results are exceedingly satisfactory, and the bacteriological examination shows a degree of purity conforming to the best possible conditions of an upland source of supply.

KERSBROOK.

This sample continues to preserve the invariable character associated with the deep origin of the spring from which it is

derived. The bacteriological examination agrees with the well-established confidence founded on previous experience of its freedom from contamination.

KERSBROOK No. 1.

The analysis shows that this water is derived from a source identical with that of the older Kersbrook supply and is of equal purity.

BACTERIOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Kersbrook. Sherbrook. Kersbrook No. 1.

No. of Micro-organisms per						
c.c.	..	..	.. 20	12	250	
No. of Liquefying Organisms						
per c.c.	..	..	.. 0	0	20	
No. of Bacilli Coli Com-						
munis per litre not						
more than	..	..	10	10	10	
Per 100,000	{	Total Solids	.. 32.6	13.8	39.6	
		Chlorine as				
		Chlorides	.. 3.4	4.4	3.4	
		Nitrogen as				
		Nitrites	.. 0	0	0	
		Nitrogen as				
		Nitrates	.. 0.34	0.27	0.34	
		Total Hardness	21.4	3.3	22.6	
		Temporary Hard-				
		ness	.. 18.9	0.4	19.7	
		Permanent				
		Hardness	.. 2.5	2.9	2.9	
		Saline Ammonia	0.0056	0.0004	0	
		Albuminoid				
		Ammonia	.. 0.0016	0.0014	0.0008	
		Poisonous Metals	0	0	0	

(2)—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The works which were completed in 1911 for the better disposal of sewage continue to work very satisfactorily, and all reflux of sewage on to the fore-shore is effectually prevented.

(3)—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Satisfactory throughout the District. The few earth closets which still remain are in good order.

(4)—SCAVENGING.—House refuse is removed twice weekly. There is no destructor. Efficient receptacles for the temporary retention of household refuse are still all too rare in many dwellings, and it would be well if the Council could provide galvanised iron bins, with lids, at a nominal cost.

(5)—SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.—A considerable number of inspections have been made during the year by the Surveyor and myself. In many cases verbal suggestions for alterations or improvements are all that has been necessary to ensure acquiescence on the part of owners or occupiers, and no houses have been found unfit for habitation.

Statement required by Article V. of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, in regard to the inspection of dwelling-houses under Section 17 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

Number of houses inspected under the Section	..	90
Number of houses considered unfit for habitation		Nil.
Number of houses of which representations were made to the local authority with a view to closing order	.. .. .	Nil.
Number of dwellings in which closing orders were made	.. .. .	Nil.
Number of dwellings the defects in which were remedied without making closing orders	..	18

Number of dwellings which after the making of closing orders were made fit for habitation .. Nil

General character of defects found to exist in dwelling-houses inspected :—Needed whitewashing, dilapidated walls, uncleanliness.

(6)—SCHOOLS.—These are up to date in every particular, and the sanitary condition and water supply are satisfactory. They have not been closed for any epidemic during the year.

MILK SUPPLY.—The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops have been regularly inspected, and no gross sanitary defects have been detected either in the distribution or storage of milk. The Cowsheds are kept as clean as possible, in some cases under rather disadvantageous surroundings.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are ten in the District. They have all been systematically inspected, and no causes for complaint have been brought to light. All legal requirements have been observed. There are no underground bakehouses.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—The same remarks apply to these as to the Bakehouses. No tuberculous or other form of diseased meat has been brought to my notice.

HOUSING.—Seven new buildings have been erected, and in all cases the Byelaws as to drainage, water supply and sufficiency of light and air space have been complied with. No cases of gross overcrowding have been brought to my notice, which is very satisfactory considering the number of soldiers who have been billeted in the town.

WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.—There are no Factories in the District and only a few Workshops. These have all been periodically inspected during the year, and the results will be found appended at the end of this Report.

C.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

STAFF.—The officials of the Sanitary Staff comprise the Medical Officer of Health, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, and two employes, who are increased to eight in the summer months, if necessary.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The Exeter Sanatorium, at Whipton, receive patients who wish to be removed from their homes, at an inclusive charge of 25/- per week per individual. This arrangement has proved quite satisfactory and economical up to the present time.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK DURING THE YEAR.—Two chemical analyses of the water of the District are made by the Public Analyst, and his reports and results are tabulated elsewhere.

A fresh stock of Diphtheria Antitoxin is always at hand for the use of Medical Practitioners in the District, and bacteriological examination of throat swabs is gratuitously provided whenever necessary.

D.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Chicken Pox was the only notifiable infectious disease present during the year. It is gratifying to report an entire absence of the more formidable infectious diseases, viz., Enteric Fever, Scarletina, Measles or Diphtheria. Upon a case of infectious disease being notified, your officials at once visit the premises, and all reasonable precautions are taken to limit the spread of the infection. These preventive measures include—

- (a) Disinfection of the premises with Formalin after recovery, death, or removal to Sanatorium.
- (b) Destruction of bedding, &c., when considered necessary.

(c) Gratuitous bacteriological examination in suspicious cases.

(d) Exclusion of children from school from infected premises.

E.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

Three cases of Tuberculosis, all of the lungs, were notified last year, in accordance with the Act. They included one male, aged 25 years, and two females, aged 30 and 25 respectively. One of the latter was treated at the Sanatorium. Printed cards are supplied, setting out in simple language the best means for preventing infection to others, and a few rules are incorporated for the patient's guidance, regarding diet, fresh air and the disposal of sputum, &c.

F.—INVESTIGATION OF OTHER DISEASES.

No "influences threatening the health of the District" (Art. XIX. (1) of the Board's General Order) have come under my notice. Diarrhœa, Enteritis, Acute Rheumatism and Rickets are uncommon; nor have there been any cases of illness traceable to food (Ptomaine) poisoning.

G.—MEANS FOR PREVENTING MORTALITY IN CHILDBIRTH AND IN INFANCY.

The Notification of Births Act was adopted in the District last November. This is an Act of very real value, and will doubtless be a potent factor in still further reducing infant mortality.

A trained and competent Nurse resides in the District, and considering the infant mortality is 25.0 per 1,000 births (the rate for England and Wales being 105 per 1,000), it is evident that the proper care of infants in your District is not overlooked.

H.—VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

The population at the Census in 1901 was 1883 persons; in 1911 it was 2,170, an increase of 287 in the ten years. The population for 1914 is estimated at 2,263 persons, and this is the figure adopted in compiling the Statistical Tables in this Report. During the year the total number of registered deaths was 25. The transferable deaths included two non-residents registered in the District and one resident not registered in the District. This gives 24 as the nett deaths, and a death-rate of 10·6. This is a very low figure, the annual rate for England and Wales being 13·6. Twenty-one deaths occurred in persons over 60, thus—

60 and under 70	..	..	..	..	4
70 „ „ 80	..	..	..	..	10
80 „ „ 90	..	..	..	..	7
					<hr/>
				Total	21
					<hr/>

The quarterly returns are shown in this table :—

	Jan., Feb., March.	April, May, June.	July, Aug., Sept.	Oct., Nov., Dec.
Males	3	4	4	3
Females.. ..	2	3	2	4
Total per quarter	5	7	6	7

THE ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.—This term denotes the death-rate from the “seven principal Zymotic Diseases.” There were no deaths from any of these diseases.

BIRTHS.—Thirty-nine births were registered, of which 23 were males and 16 females. Two were illegitimate. This produces a birth-rate of 17·2 per 1,000; that for England and Wales being 23·6. Last year the birth-rate for the District was 11·6, so that there has been a substantial increase; but in conjunction with the country as a whole, the birth-rate is very low. The

factors which combine to produce a low birth-rate are many and complex, and some of them have been mentioned in previous Reports. The prime factor in your District is most probably the "age distribution" of the population.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1914.

The following statement shows the birth and death-rates and the rates of infantile mortality in England and Wales and in certain parts of the country during the year 1914, the figures being provisional:—

	Annual rate per 1,000 living.			Deaths under one year to 1,000 births.
	Births.	Deaths.		
		Crude.	Standardised.	
England and Wales	23·6	13·9	13·6	105
97 great towns, including } London	24·9	14·6	14·9	113
145 smaller towns	23·6	12·8	12·9	104
England and Wales, less the } 241 towns	21·9	13·3	12·2	93
London	24·6	14·4	14·4	103

In reviewing the health of the District and the work done by the Sanitary Staff during 1914, I think we may feel satisfied with the sanitary condition of Budleigh Salterton. The deaths have been few in number, and a large percentage have occurred amongst persons well advanced in years, and in many cases well over the allotted span of three score years and ten.

Tuberculosis is uncommon, and the cases of Infectious Disease have been few in number and of a mild type. Only one death from Cancer was registered, and only one infant died under one year of age. The houses erected, and in course of erection, will probably satisfy the needs of the District for some considerable time.

I cannot close this Report without drawing attention to the gift of an up-to-date operating room to the Cottage Hospital, through the generosity of Mr. F. Williams. It is impossible to say how much human suffering may be prevented by this addition to an Institution already doing much good work, and the thanks of all are due to the generous donor.

In conclusion, I have to thank the Members of the Council for the unvarying courtesy they have always extended to me, and my best thanks are due to the Surveyor for his ready assistance in the compilation of this Report, and upon all other occasions when his collaboration has been required ; nor must we forget the other servants of the Council who have performed their duties so satisfactorily.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CLARENCE BEESLEY, M.O.H.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BUDLEIGH SALTERTON DURING 1914.

Nuisances Detected	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Nuisances Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Slaughterhouses Inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Bakehouses Inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Dairies, &c., Inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Houses connected with Mains	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Houses connected with Sewers	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
New Lamps	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
New Buildings erected	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Drains Tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Houses Disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
New Sewers	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.

J. B. HOLDEN, *Surveyor*.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1914 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Of Non-residents registered in the District.	Of Residents registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number	Rate per 1,000 Net Births.	Number	Rate.
1909	2,200	33	33	15.0	30	13.6	..	..	1	30.3	30	13.6
1910	2,210	25	25	11.3	23	15.4	..	..	1	88.4	23	15.4
1911	2,177	44	44	20.2	20	9.1	..	..	4	90.9	20	9.1
1912	2,205	31	31	14.0	30	13.6	1	2	1	32.2	30	13.6
1913	2,240	26	26	11.6	32	14.2	1	2	1	38.5	31	13.8
1914	2,263	39	39	17.2	25	11.0	2	1	1	25.0	24	10.6

Total population at all ages 2,170 }
 Total families or separate occupiers 554 } At Census, 1911 (*cf.* Census, Vol. V.)
 Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 840 }

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and up- wards
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera. Plague..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (includ- ing Membranous Croup) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas..	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Scarlet Fever ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neona- torum ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuber- culosis ..	4	..	..	..	2	2	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	9	..	..	..	3	3	2	1

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Net Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards	
All causes—										
Certified ..	25	1	..	..	..	..	2	4	18	..
Uncertified ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Rheumatic Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Organic Heart Disease ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Bronchitis ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suicide ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Defined Diseases ..	12	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	8	..
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	25	1	..	..	..	..	2	4	18	..

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1914.

Net Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 4 Weeks.	3 Weeks and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months.	6 Months and under 9 Months.	9 Months and under 12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes—Certified		I	I
Small-pox
Chicken-pox
Measles
Scarlet Fever
Whooping Cough
Diphtheria and Croup
Erysipelas
Tuberculous Meningitis
Abdominal Tuberculosis
Other Tuberculous Diseases
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)
Convulsions	I	..
Laryngitis
Bronchitis
Pneumonia (all forms)
Diarrhœa
Enteritis
Gastritis
Syphilis
Rickets
Suffocation, Overlying
Injury at Birth
Atelectasis
Congenital Malformations
Premature Birth
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus
Other Causes
Totals	I	I

Net Births in the year { Legitimate, 37.
 { Illegitimate, 2.

Net Deaths in the year of { Legitimate Infants, 1.
 { Illegitimate Infants, —

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)	..	..	..
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	10	..	..
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' Premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	..	..	..
Total ..	10	..	..

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness .. ..	..	..	..	..
Want of ventilation.. ..	..	..	..	..
Overcrowding .. ..	..	..	..	..
Want of drainage of floors ..	..	..	..	..
Other nuisances .. ..	..	..	..	..
Sanitary } insufficient .. ..	..	..	..	..
accom- } unsuitable or defective ..	..	..	..	..
modation) not separate for sexes ..	..	..	..	..
	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
<i>Offences under the Factory and Work- shop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) .. ..	..	..	..	..
Breach of special sanitary require- ments for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	..	..	..	..
Other offences .. ..	..	..	..	..
(Excluding offences relating to out- work which are included in Part 3 of this Report)				
Total ..	..	..	..	..

